

Picatinny Arsenal, 500 Area

HAER # NJ-36C

Powder Factory and Power House District

One mile north of I-80 on State Rte. 15

Dover Vicinity

Morris County

New Jersey

HAER.

(15).

14-601.V,

2-C-

DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

NJ-36C

PICATINNY ARSENAL,
500 AREA,
POWDER FACTORY AND POWER HOUSE DISTRICT

HAER
NJ,
14-DOV.V,
2-C-

Date of Construction: Various building periods between 1907 and 1941.

Location: One mile north of I-80 on State Route 15, Dover,
Morris County, New Jersey.

Owner: Department of the Army

Significance: Originally built as a depot for storage of powder and other armaments, during the 20th century Picatinny Arsenal became a leading facility for the research, development and production of munitions. The buildings in the 500 Area were used for the production of explosive powder and involved the use of hazardous chemicals, the creation of dangerous compounds and the disposal of toxic wastes. As a result, the buildings of the powder factory are considered to be highly contaminated. Because cleanup costs are considered to be prohibitive, as of 1983 the burning of many 500 Area buildings has begun.

Prepared and transmitted: Dan Clement, 1984. For an overview and additional information on the Picatinny Arsenal see: HAER NJ-36 (see historical report pp. 92-115), NJ-36A, NJ-36B, NJ-36D and NJ-36E.